

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5
1. A method for providing a figure of merit indicating a value for a member node of a partitioned network cluster to continue operating, the method comprising:
querying, by a management program, an application program executing on the partitioned network cluster for the figure of merit;
determining, by the application program, the figure of merit; and
returning the figure of merit from the application program to the management program.
- 10
2. The method of Claim 1 wherein determining the figure of merit includes:
assessing merit criteria for the member node.
3. The method of Claim 2 wherein assessing merit criteria includes:
determining a number of users executing the application program from the member node.
- 15
4. The method of Claim 2 wherein assessing merit criteria includes:
determining an execution priority of the application program.
5. The method of Claim 1 wherein querying the application program includes:
providing a proposed figure of merit.
- 20
6. The method of Claim 5 wherein determining the figure of merit includes:
selecting between the proposed figure of merit and determining an alternate figure of merit derived by assessing merit criteria for the member node.

7. A method for resolving a partitioned computer network cluster including multiple cluster partitions, the method comprising:
- evaluating a partition figure of merit for each cluster partition including:
 - requesting, from an application program executing on the cluster partition, a node figure of merit, indicating a value to the application program for a member node, on which the application is executing, to continue operation;
 - providing, from the application program, the requested node figure of merit; and
 - evaluating the provided node figure of merit to determine the partition figure of merit;
 - selecting, in response to the partition figure of merit, a cluster partition to operate as the network cluster; and
 - halting operation of the remaining cluster partitions.
8. The method of Claim 1 wherein requesting a node figure of merit further includes:
- providing, from a cluster manager executing on the member node, a proposed node figure of merit.
9. The method of Claim 8 wherein providing the requested node figure of merit includes:
- selecting between the proposed node figure of merit and determining an alternate figure of merit derived by assessing merit criteria for the member node.
10. The method of Claim 9 wherein assessing merit criteria includes:
- determining a number of users executing the application program from the member node.

- add

[illegible]